

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS**

Claim 1. (Previously presented) A biodegradable heterophase polymeric composition having good resistance to ageing and to low humidity conditions, the composition comprising

a thermoplastic starch

a thermoplastic polymer incompatible with starch, wherein the starch is in a dispersed phase and the thermoplastic polymer is in a continuous phase, and

an interfacial agent which is an ester having an hydrophilic/lipophilic balance index value (HLB) greater than 8, which ester is obtained from a polyol or a mono- or polycarboxylic acid having a dissociation constant pK lower than 4.5, wherein the pK value refers to the first carboxyl group of the polycarboxylic acid.

Claim 2. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein in the polyol portion of the ester comprises 3 or more carbon atoms and 2 or more alcohol groups.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 2, in which the polyol is glycerol.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The composition according to claims 2 or 3, in which the ester is a monoglyceride.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 2, in which the ester is an ester of oxalic, malonic, succinic, adipic, glutaric, maleic, citric, tartaric, lactic, or mono- di-, or tri-chloroacetic acid.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 5, in which the ester is on average the monoglyceride.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, in which the ratio by weight between the thermoplastic starch and the thermoplastic polymer incompatible with starch is such that the starch constitutes the dispersed phase and the thermoplastic polymer constitutes the continuous phase.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, in which the quantities of the esters used are from 0.5 to 20% by weight relative to the total composition.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 1 further comprising a plasticizer.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 9, in which the plasticizer is selected from polyols with 3 or more carbon atoms and with 2 or more alcohol groups.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 10, in which the polyol is selected from glycerol, sorbitol, etherified or esterified sorbitol, ethyleneglycol and trimethylolpropane.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 9, in which the plasticizer is present in the composition from 1 to 100% by weight relative to the starch.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, in which the ester is present in the composition in a ratio of from 1:30 to 1:2.5 by weight to the starch.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, in which the thermoplastic polymer is an aliphatic or aliphatic-aromatic polyester, which is obtained by a reaction selected from a polycondensation of hydroxyacids with 2 or more carbon atoms, or from the corresponding lactones or lactides, a polycondensation of a diol with 1-12 carbon atoms with a dicarboxylic aliphatic acid or with mixtures thereof with dicarboxylic aromatic acids.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 14, in which the polymer is a poly- $\epsilon$ -caprolactone.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) A film produced from a composition of claim 1.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A consumer product comprising a film according to claim 16, wherein the consumer product is selected from the group consisting of nappies, sanitary towels, bags, laminated paper, laminates and films treated with inorganic products.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) Compositions comprising a film according to claim 16.

Claim 19. (Cancelled).

Claim 20. (Withdrawn) A material obtained from a heterophase composition comprising a thermoplastic starch and a thermoplastic polymer incompatible with starch, wherein the starch is in a dispersed phase having a

microstructure in which at least 80% of the particles have dimensions smaller than 1  $\mu\text{m}$  and the thermoplastic polymer is in a continuous phase.

Claim 21. (Withdrawn) The material according to claim 20, in which the average numeral particle size is between 0.1 and 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 22. (Withdrawn) The material according to claims 20 or 21 in film form.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 10 wherein the polyol is etherified or esterified.